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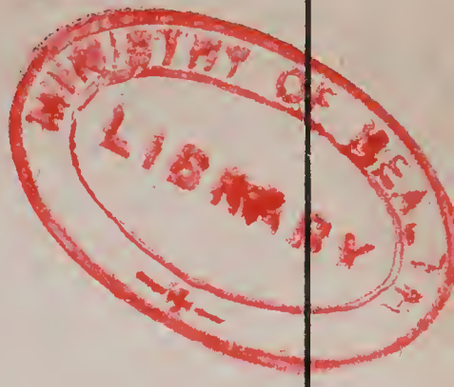

WHALEY BRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1938,

BY

DR. FRED GARNET ALLAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

WHALEY BRIDGE:
J. CARTER, PRINTER.

Whaley Bridge Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Whaley Bridge Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the district during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Whaley Bridge Area

Total area of Whaley Bridge Urban District (in acres)	3,487
Estimated Population (mid 1938)	4,956
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1938 according to Rate Book	1,590
Rateable Value	£28,369
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£108

The chief occupations of the district are cotton weaving, cotton bleaching and calico printing. These occupations have no pernicious effect on the health of those employed and the district as a whole is healthy.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1938

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	58	34	24
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still Births	1	0	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			11.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population in England and Wales			15.1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (total live and still) births			16.9
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			10.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population in England and Wales			11.6

Each year during the summer months care has to be taken to reduce the waste of water to a minimum to prevent shortage, so should there be any appreciable increase in population it would be necessary for this Council to augment their supplies and I would urge the Council to obtain an option on some other suitable supply within the district.

The following extension to the Council's mains was carried out during the year:—

Park Crescent, Furness Vale—80 yards of 3'' Service Main.

This extension was necessary owing to building development.

Sewerage:

The sewage is conveyed through the Council's sewers to the sewage disposal works at Furness Vale, the treatment being carried out under the control of the Whaley Bridge and District Joint Sewerage Board.

No complaints were received concerning the discharged effluent.

The sewers have been maintained in good condition and cleansing and rodding has been carried out whenever necessary.

Only one small length of sewer extension was carried out during the year:—

50 yards 6'' Sewer, Elnor Lane.

Rivers and Streams:

The River Goyt which flows through the district is directly under the control of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee so far as the control of pollution is concerned.

Closet Accommodation:

One privy midden and six pail closets were converted to the water carriage system.

On December 31st, 1938, there were 1,504 water closets, 46 privy middens and 66 pail closets.

Public Scavenging:

This work was satisfactorily carried out by direct labour with the Council's motor refuse collection vehicle.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Systematic inspections of the district were carried out, details of which are appended in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Shops:

It was not found necessary to take any special action under the Shops Acts.

Camping Sites:

There are no camping sites within the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools:

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Smoke Abatement:

Smoke observations were periodically taken of all the factory chimneys in the district. In some cases the observations showed the smoke emission to be slightly excessive and the responsible persons had to be approached with a view to carrying out stricter supervision over stoking.

A certain amount of smoke is inevitable in the industries of this neighbourhood.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and consequently it was not found necessary to carry out any work of disinfection.

Schools:

The Sanitary Conditions and water supplies of the Elementary Schools in the district were quite satisfactory throughout the year. During the early part of the year a number of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases were notified but in the early part of the summer these diseases rapidly subsided and during the latter part of the year very few further cases were notified. The general health and nutrition of the scholars has been quite satisfactory throughout the year.

Factories Act:

Periodical inspections of all premises coming within the jurisdiction of this Act have been made. Eight defects were discovered and five informal notices served. All the defects were remedied.

Several factories had to undertake structural alterations to improve the means of escape in case of fire.

Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected:—

(a))By Local Authority	Nil
(b) By Private Enterprise	21
Total ...	21

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	34
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	46
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	21
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	28
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:—
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 34

3. Action under Statutory Powers:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners 0

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 5

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 5

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 32½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 1

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 6½

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ... Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply:

On the whole the milk supply maintained a good standard. 104 inspections of cowsheds were made and repairs and alterations were carried out on 13 shippons.

There are now 36 cowkeepers in the district, 11 holding Accredited Milk licenses and one cowkeeper licenced to sell Grade "A" T.T. Milk.

(b) Meat:

Inspections of meat and other food supplies have been carried out regularly and animals inspected both before and after slaughtering. All premises used for the preparation, storage, or sale of food are in a satisfactory state, and there have been no cases of food poisoning in the district.

Samples for adulteration and chemical bacteriological examination of food are periodically taken and analysed by the Derbyshire County Council.

No marking under the Public Health Meat Regulations 1924 is in force.

New Slaughterhouse Byelaws after being approved by the Ministry of Health came into operation on the 1st July, 1938.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	152	137	40	857	210
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	1	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	1.316%	0.73%	—	0.233%	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.97%	5.84%	—	—	—

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

No cases of Malaria or Dysentery were notified.

During the early part of the year the district suffered from sporadic outbreaks of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, but most of these cases were of a mild type. Towards the end of May the number of these cases rapidly decreased and during the latter part of the year only isolated cases occurred. Precautions taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases included the disinfection of premises and articles which were exposed to infection and the destruction of library books which had been in contact with patients. Diphtheria anti-toxin is issued gratuitously when required and has been promptly used when necessary. Toxoid anti-toxin is also issued gratuitously.

School intimations were regularly made use of.

The district was free from any influenza epidemic during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Notifiable Diseases	Total all Ages	Years: Under 1	3-4	4-5	5-10	10 -15	15 -20	20 -35	35 -45	over 65	Total Deaths	Hospitals Cases	Hospitals Deaths
Smallpox	0												
Scarlet Fever ...	18		1	2	6	4	1	3	1			16	
Diphtheria	26				7	12	2	4	1		3	26	3
Enteric Fever (including Para typhoid)	0												
Puerperal Pyrexia	1							1				1	
Pneumonia ...	2				1					1	1		
Erysipelas	0												
Other diseases generally notifiable	0												
Other diseases notifiable locally	0												
Totals	47	0	1	2	14	16	3	8	2	1	4	43	3

Prevention of Blindness

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

(relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospitals of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality, 1938

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1- 5			1					
5-15								
15-25								
25-35			1					
35-45								
45-55					1			
55-65								
65 and over								
Totals			2		1			

Notification of tuberculosis is efficiently carried out in the area.

I am pleased to report that after years of agitation and effort the provision of a Mortuary has now become an accomplished fact, the building and equipment of which leave nothing to be desired, its usefulness having been proved during the period under review.

In conclusion, I would like to tender my thanks to the Officials of the Council for the assistance so ably and willingly rendered in connection with my Public Health duties throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

FRED GARNET ALLAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

June 6th, 1939.

WHALEY BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sanitary Inspector's Report on the Sanitary Condition of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the Whaley Bridge Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the district and the work done during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Particulars of Sanitary Accommodation

Privy Closets	46
Pail Closets	66
Fresh Water Closets	1,494
Slop Water Closets	10
Dry Ashpits	63

Conversions

Number of privy closets:—	
(a) To Water Closets	1
(b) To Pail Closets	Nil
Number of pail closets to Water Closets	6
Total	7

Sanitary Inspections

Systematic inspections were made throughout the year.

Total number of inspections made	774
Defects or nuisances:—	
Number discovered	210
Number abated	198
Number of Notices served:—	
Informal	107
Statutory	2
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Slaughterhouses

There is no public slaughterhouse in the district.

Number of private slaughterhouses	5
Number of inspections to slaughterhouses	233
Defects or nuisances remedied with or without notices	4
Number of carcases inspected:—	
Cattle	289

Calves	40
Sheep and Lambs	857
Pigs	210
	1396

The following meat was condemned and voluntarily surrendered:—

3 whole carcases of beef (with organs), (Tubercular).
3 beasts' plucks (Tubercular).
2 sheeps' hindquarters (bruises).
3 beasts' livers (Tubercular).
2 beasts' lungs (Tubercular).
1 beast's liver (Abscess).
2 beasts' livers (cirrhosis).

Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.

Number of cowkeepers on register	36
Number of cowkeepers holding Accredited Milk licences	11
Number of cowkeepers holding Grade "A" T.T. licences	1
Number of inspections of cowsheds	104
Number of farms on which repairs or alterations were carried out	13
Number of cowsheds:—	
(a) Entirely remodelled internally	3
(b) Where new floors were laid	1
(c) Where floors were repaired	5
(d) Where feeding troughs were repaired or provided	2
(e) Where lighting and ventilation were improved	2
(f) Where lofts were removed	1
(g) Where walls were cement rendered	2
(h) Where standings were paved	1
(i) Which were cleaned up	2
(j) Where manure dump was removed or improved	2
Number of farms:—	
(a) Where dairies were improved	3
(b) Where cowkeeping was given up	2

Factories, etc.

Number of inspections	79
Number of defects found	8
Number of notices served	5
Number of defects remedied	8

Bakehouses

Number of registered bakehouses in district	3
Number of inspections made	12
Defects	Nil

Housing Acts, Public Health Acts, etc.

Number of inspections made for housing repairs ...	46
Houses to which repairs were carried out after informal action	34
Defects remedied after informal action:—	
Defective Roofs, Eaves, Spouts and Down-Spouts	23
Defective Sinks	9
Dampness	13
Window Repairs	13
Defective Floors	8
Other Housing Defects	15
Defective Waste Pipe, Traps and Drains	9
Obstructed Drains	12
Flooded Cellars	3
Defective Privies, Pail Closets and Ashpits ...	11
Defective Water Closets	1
Insufficient or Unsuitable Closet Accommodation	2
Defective Ashbins	32
Offensive Accumulations	18
Animals improperly kept	1
Other Nuisances	31
Houses Disinfected:—	
Scarlet Fever	18
Diphtheria	26
Other Diseases	5
Schools disinfected	2

I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McLANE,

Sanitary Inspector.